



November 29 – December 1  
Norfolk Marriott Waterside  
Norfolk, Virginia

## For Immediate Release

November 24, 2006

**Contact:** Hollie Cammarasana, DHCD  
Public Relations Director  
(804) 519-3540  
[hollie.cammarasana@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:hollie.cammarasana@dhcd.virginia.gov)

Brian Matt, VHDA  
Public Relations Manager  
(804) 343-5520  
[brian.matt@vhda.com](mailto:brian.matt@vhda.com)

### ***The Key to Community Starts at Home - Virginia's largest housing conference will seek solutions to affordable housing issues***

**Richmond, Va.** – The 2006 Governor's Housing Conference, Virginia's largest and most comprehensive affordable housing event of the year, will be held Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 in Norfolk, Va. This year's conference will bring together nearly 1,000 affordable housing advocates, providers, and policy makers to discuss a host of important issues.

The three-day conference will feature workshops and sessions designed to help public and private sector representatives develop effective housing solutions in Virginia.

"The issue of affordable housing is one that is impacting many Virginians from all social and economic backgrounds," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk. "Again this year, this conference will serve as a forum for those in the housing industry to discuss initiatives that create new affordable housing options and improve existing ones."

This year's keynote speaker, Juan Williams, Senior Correspondent for National Public Radio, will open the conference with a unique perspective from his background of growing up in public housing.

More than 30 workshops and sessions are packed into this year's conference. Session topics will include: *Workforce Housing, Where Economic Development Meets Housing Affordability; Facing Growth in the Rural Fringe; Deconcentration of Poverty, Anatomy of Creative Finance; Addressing the Unique Needs of the Homeless; and more.*

Additionally, this year's conference will feature a dialogue on eminent domain from both the opponent and proponent perspective.

"This year's conference will feature more sessions covering more housing topics and issues than ever before," said Bill Shelton, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

"We are also expecting record attendance this year, bringing together nearly 1,000 public and private, national and regional housing and community development experts to discuss housing issues, best practices, and ways that we can work together to achieve our common goal of increasing affordable housing across the Commonwealth."

- more -

For More Information  
Please E-mail Us  
[ghc@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:ghc@dhcd.virginia.gov)

Or Visit Our Website  
[www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov)

Governor's  
Housing Conference  
The Jackson Center  
501 North Second Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Phone 804.371.7171  
Fax 804.786.7310



August , 2006  
Page 2

"The Governor's Housing Conference provides VHDA and other affordable housing organizations with the opportunity to better understand and respond to the increasing diversity of housing needs among Virginia's communities," added Susan Dewey, Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority. "We look forward to actively participating in the conference as we seek to address the housing needs of low and moderate income families in Virginia."

Several state and federal agencies partner to host the Governor's Housing Conference, including the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Housing Commission, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development – Richmond Field Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development.

Conference registration is \$185 in advance and \$200 on-site. Registration includes all sessions and materials. For more information, call (804) 371-7000 or visit: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov).

###